



September 15, 2006

Dear Friends:

Last week the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released a report confirming what many Minnesota families have increasingly felt over the past decade: a public-college education is taking a bigger chunk out of hard-working families' incomes. Minnesota received a "D" for college affordability, while 43 other states received an "F" in the same category. The report revealed that the average Minnesota family paid about 19 percent of its annual income to attend a public four-year college or university in 1992, whereas the same education now costs about 26 percent of the average family's income.

Our nation needs a new direction. A direction where quality public education is accessible to all Americans, college tuition is tax-deductible and student loan rates are affordable for all people. To that end, I have co-authored a bill, the *College Affordability and Accountability Act* (H.R. 2739), that includes a provision to reward colleges that keep costs low with additional Pell grant funding. It is critical that we do more to increase access to higher education for all Americans in order to remain competitive in this increasingly globalized world.

Please join me on **Monday, September 18th at 7:00 PM at South St. Paul High School** for a discussion about important issues facing K-12 education, a critical precursor to effective higher learning, including the upcoming Congressional reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. This meeting in South St. Paul is the second in a series of education discussions I am convening for 4th District residents.

This meeting is open to everyone, especially parents and educators. I hope to see you on Monday!

**WHAT: Education Town Hall Meeting with special guests:**

- South St. Paul Schools Superintendent Dana Babbitt
- School District 197 Board Member Becky Gonzáles-Campoy
- Cindy Krueger, a teacher in South Washington County School District 833

**WHEN:** Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**WHERE:** South St. Paul High School  
700 Second Street North  
South St. Paul, MN 55075



A group of women activists from Sudan met with Rep. McCollum to discuss human rights, women's civic participation in Sudan, AIDS orphans, and children that have been orphaned as a result of conflicts in Sudan, such as the ongoing situation in Darfur

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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